

[0098] If it is determined that the user can be assumed to be looking at mobile phone 500, processor 401 causes Bluetooth module 406 to transmit a request to activate a flash flickering to mobile phone 500. (action 422)

[0099] Thereupon, processor 401 evaluates an output of light sensor 408, in order to determine whether a predefined light corresponding to a flickering flash aid is detected. (action 423) Sensor 408 could detect only light having a particular wavelength and the evaluation could consider in addition whether the pattern of any detected light corresponds to a predetermined pattern. It is to be understood that optionally, light sensor 408 may be activated by processor 401 for a predetermined maximum period of time after the request has been transmitted. In case no flickering flash aid is detected during a predetermined maximum period of time, the operation could continue with action 421.

[0100] When a flickering flash aid is detected, this confirms that the user is looking in the direction of phone 500. In particular, it confirms that the user is not looking in the direction of another, similar looking phone instead. In this case, processor 401 causes a transmission of a gaze detection indication to phone 500 via Bluetooth module 406. (action 424)

[0101] In parallel or thereafter, processor 401 may continue evaluating data from camera 407 to check whether the image of phone 500 represented by the template stored in memory 404 disappears again from the predefined area of images captured by camera 407. If this is the case, it may be assumed that the user is no longer looking at phone 500. (action 425)

[0102] If it is determined that it can be assumed that the user is no longer looking at phone 500, processor 401 causes a transmission of an averted gaze detection indication to phone 500 via Bluetooth module 406. (action 426)

[0103] Thereafter, the operation may continue with the monitoring of action 421.

[0104] Turning now to FIG. 8 again, mobile phone 500 sets itself at some time to a power save mode, since the charge of battery is low. (action 521)

[0105] In this state, mobile phone 500 receives an incoming session, for example an incoming call, via cellular transceiver 507. (action 522)

[0106] Mobile phone 500 plays a ringtone using speakers 509. Due to the power save mode, however, it does not turn on the display 508 right away. (action 523)

[0107] Instead, mobile phone 500 monitors whether there is any incoming request from a paired device via Bluetooth module 506 to activate the camera flash aid. (action 524)

[0108] The transmission of such a request by glasses 400 as an example paired device was described further above as action 422.

[0109] If such a request is received mobile phone 500, a flash aid flickering by camera module 510 is activated. (action 525)

[0110] Thereupon, mobile phone 500 monitors whether a gaze detection indication is received from the paired device via Bluetooth module 506. Such a gaze detection indication is a notification indicating that the user can be assumed to be looking at mobile phone 500. (action 526)

[0111] The transmission of such a gaze detection indication by glasses 400 as an example paired device was described further above as action 424.

[0112] If receipt of a gaze detection indication is detected, mobile phone 500 turns on display 508, which may present information on the incoming call. (action 527)

[0113] In case action 421 described above includes a tracking of the image of mobile phone 500 in images captured by camera 407 and a prediction of whether the user will be looking at mobile phone 500, display 508 may be turned on in certain embodiments without delay or even slightly before the user actually looks at mobile phone 500, because actions 422, 423, 424, 525, 526 and 527 may be triggered somewhat earlier than without prediction.

[0114] Now, mobile phone 500 may monitor whether any averted gaze indication is received via Bluetooth module 506 from the paired device. Such an averted gaze indication is a notification indicating that the user can be assumed not to be looking at mobile phone 500 anymore. (action 528)

[0115] The transmission of such an averted gaze indication by glasses 400 as an example paired device was described further above as action 426.

[0116] If receipt of an averted gaze indication is detected, mobile phone 500 turns display 508 off again. (action 529)

[0117] As long as the phone keeps ringing (action 530), mobile phone 500 may continue to monitor whether the user is looking at mobile phone 500 again, and if so, turn on display 508 again.

[0118] Thus, mobile phone 500 may be configured such that display 508 is turned on automatically in certain situations if the user is looking at it. On the one hand, this may save battery power, in particular when the battery of mobile phone 500 is already low. On the one hand, this may increase security, because it may prevent other persons to inconspicuously read the information on display 508 while the user is looking into another direction. Based on the data provided by camera 407, the stored template and the predefined area, the viewing angle of the user relative to mobile phone 500 can be determined quite precisely.

[0119] It is to be understood that the operations presented in FIGS. 7 and 8 could be modified in many ways and that the order of actions could be changed.

[0120] For example, it would be possible to omit the additional activation and detection of a flash aid flickering. That is, the display could be caused to be switched on right away when the image represented by a template is found in a captured image or in a particular area of a captured image. Furthermore, it would be possible to use glasses 400 only for controlling the turning on of display 508 and not for a turning off of display 508. Furthermore, it would be possible to have glasses 400 control the turning on of display 508 regardless of the current battery state and any associated power mode of mobile phone 500.

[0121] It is further to be understood that in other example embodiments, a similar approach may be used for activating other functions of a mobile phone, for activating functions of a mobile phone in the case of other conditions, and for activating similar or other functions of other kinds of devices, in each case using glasses or some other suitable device.

[0122] For example, the display of a TV set may be turned on automatically when a user is assumed to be looking at the TV set, for instance, in case the TV set has been set to a specific mode for automatically turning on the display. Additional criteria may be defined, like particular times of the day or the start of a selected program, etc.

[0123] A single pair of glasses may also be used for activating functions of several devices of the user. Functions of some devices that are used by several users, like TV sets, may be allowed to be activated using several pairs of glasses or other devices.